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Northumberland.

# Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1951.



**OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.**

<i>Medical Officer of Health :</i>	MADGE HOPPER, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
<i>Senior Sanitary Inspector :</i>	GEORGE STENGER, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
<i>Additional Sanitary Inspector :</i>	GEORGE G. OXLEY, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
<i>Clerks :</i>	Mrs. C. E. RAINE, Miss W. OLIVER.



## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ending 31st December, 1951.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report upon the vital statistics and sanitary work of your District for the year ending 31st December, 1951.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

**Population.** There was an increase of 460 in the Registrar General's estimate of the total population from 24,040 in 1950 to 24,500 in 1951.

**Birth Rate.** The birth rate per thousand of the population was 14.5 in 1951 being the same as in 1950. The rate for England and Wales was 15.5 per thousand population in 1951. The total number of births was 357 in 1951 and 349 in 1950.

The still-birth rate showed a decrease to 0.08 per thousand of the population in 1951 from 0.49 in 1950. In England and Wales the still-birth rate for 1951 was 0.36 per thousand of the population. There were 2 still-births in 1951 compared with 12 in 1950.

**General Death Rate.** The death rate for 1951 was 11.1 per thousand of the population compared with 13.1 in 1950. The rates for England and Wales were 12.5 for 1951 and 11.6 for 1950. The total number of deaths in the Urban District in 1951 was 273, in 1950, 317.

**Natural Increase of the Population.** The number of births in excess of deaths in 1951 was 84 ; in 1950 it was 32.

**Infant Mortality.** The death rate of all infants under one year of age per thousand 'live' births was 25.2. This figure of 25.2 showed an increase on the infant mortality rate of 1950 which was unusually low, being 11.4 per thousand 'live' births. In 1949 the rate was 28.8 and in 1948, 24.7 per thousand 'live' births. The corresponding figure for England and Wales was 29.6 per thousand 'live' births.

The actual number of infant deaths in 1951 was 9. There were no deaths from 'prematurity.' Three deaths were due to pneumonia and one to gastro enteritis.

The number of Neo-natal deaths (deaths of infants during the first month of life) was 4 in 1951 compared with 3 in 1950.

**Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age.** There was one death from this cause in 1951 compared with none in 1950 ; a rate of 2.8 per thousand 'live' births. The rate for England and Wales was 1.4.

**Maternal Mortality.** There were no maternal deaths registered in 1951. The rate for England and Wales was 0.79 per thousand total (live and still) births.

**Individual Causes of Death.** There was a decrease of 44 in the total number of deaths. Heart and Circulatory Diseases continued to head the list ; the number of deaths was 103 in 1951 and 120 in 1950.

Deaths from 'vascular lesions of the nervous system' decreased by 7 in 1951.

Deaths from malignant diseases numbered 37 in 1951 compared with 47 in 1950. Deaths classified as due to 'malignant neoplasm of the stomach' decreased by 4 ; those of 'the lung and bronchus' decreased by 6. There were no deaths classified as due to 'malignant neoplasm of the uterus' but there were 4 in 1950.

The number of deaths in the classification 'other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms' increased to 22 in 1951 from 19 in 1950 and those 'of the breast' from 4 in 1950 to 5 in 1951.

The number of deaths from suicide was 4 in 1951, the same as in 1950.

There was one death from Diabetes, as in 1950.

The number of deaths from respiratory diseases was 27 in 1951 compared with 32 in 1950. Those classified as due to Pneumonia decreased by 4 in 1951 and those from Bronchitis by 2.

Deaths from Influenza were 4, the same as in the previous year.

The number of deaths from 'all other accidents' (other than motor vehicle accidents) increased to 9 in 1951 from 4 in 1950.

**Tuberculosis.** The mortality rate for all forms of the disease showed a decided decrease ; the rate for 1951 being 0.28 compared with a figure of 0.32 for England and Wales per thousand population. In 1950 the rate for this district was 0.62 and for England and Wales 0.36 per thousand population.

In 1951, 5 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis were registered and 2 from other forms of the disease. In 1950, there were 12 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 3 from other forms of the disease.

The 5 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis were in the older age groups, one being 43 years of age and the other 4 in the (45-65 years) age group. In 1950, 4 deaths were in the age group (25-35 years) and 4 in the group (35-45 years).

The deaths from the Non-respiratory form of the disease were both due to T.B. Meningitis.

35 new cases (31 Pulmonary and 4 Non-pulmonary) were notified in 1951, compared with 32 in 1950. The 31 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis comprised 21 primary notifications, 8 inward transfers and 2 cases returned to the register.

In 1950 the 32 cases (27 Pulmonary and 5 Non-pulmonary) comprised 25 Primary notifications and 2 inward transfers of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and 3 primary notifications and 2 inward transfers of Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.

The number of Primary notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis has thus decreased by 4 in 1951, and the number of primary notifications of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis increased by one.

The total number of 'live' cases on the register at the end of the year was 144. Of these 121 were Pulmonary and 23 Non-pulmonary. The numbers on the register at the end of 1950 were 135—of these 111 were Pulmonary and 24 Non-pulmonary.

## **INFECTIOUS DISEASES - PREVALENCE AND CONTROL.**

The notifications of these diseases are set out in a separate table of the report.

The total number of infectious diseases notified during the year was 608 compared with 558 in 1950.

The increase in the total number was largely due to the number of cases of Chickenpox notified, i.e., 248 in 1951 and 87 in 1950. The notification of Chickenpox was discontinued on the 30th September, 1951.

There was a slight increase in the number of cases of Whooping Cough notified in 1951, 120 as against 91 in 1950, and a decrease in the number of cases of Measles, 164 in 1951 to 261 in 1950.

28 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified in 1951 compared with 34 in 1950. Five cases required hospital treatment on medical or social grounds.

18 cases of Dysentery were notified during the year. 11 of these occurred at the St. Nicholas Hospital, and of the other 7, five were members of one household. Routine investigation of all contacts was carried out. One case, a child of 3, was treated in Walkergate Hospital.

No case of Diphtheria was notified during the year as in 1949. Two children of two families were found to be remote contacts of a case of Diphtheria of the 'Gravis Type' in a neighbouring Authority. The children had previously been



fully immunised and two older child contacts were given reinforcing injections as a precaution.

In 1951, no case of Poliomyelitis was notified compared with 8 cases in 1950. The incidence of Cerebro-spinal Fever also declined from 3 in 1950 to none in 1951.

No case of Food Poisoning was notified in either year.

The number of cases of Pneumonia notified was similar in both years, 24 in 1950 and 25 in 1951.

A case of Typhoid Fever occurred in September, 1951, and was admitted to the Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Walkergate. The infection was an imported one and was probably contracted while on holiday abroad. Contacts were kept under surveillance.

**Diphtheria Immunisation.** Immunisation is carried out at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre (children 0-5 years), at the schools (children 5-15) and by the General Practitioners of the District. Special attention is given to reinforcing injections at suitable intervals.

At 31st December, 1951, 87% of the total child population of the Urban District had been immunised at some time during their life compared with 86% in 1950 and 83% in 1949.

The percentage of immunised children under 5 years of age was 71% in 1951 and 77% in 1950 and 67% in 1949.

The percentage of immunised children 5-15 years of age was 97% in 1951, 96% in 1950 and 94% in 1949.

During 1951, 433 children received a reinforcing injection.

The following are some recent figures and observations received from the Ministry of Health.

‘ The mortality and incidence of Diphtheria throughout the country continues to fall. In 1951, deaths numbered 34 (provisional) against a yearly average of about 2,800 between 1930 and 1940. Notifications (uncorrected) were 1,983 compared with a yearly average of 55,000 in the same decade. This virtual elimination of the disease has tended to make parents and the general public dangerously unmindful of the disease as very few have now first-hand knowledge of it ;

It is important that every effort be made to impress the point that this virtual elimination is by no means absolute but is ‘ **conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation** ’ especially during the first year of life and its reinforcement at suitable intervals.

**Vaccination against Smallpox.** During 1951, 159 primary vaccinations and 83 re-vaccinations were done by general practitioners compared with 197 primary vaccinations and 90 re-vaccinations in 1950.

## GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

**Hospitals.** There are two hospitals in the Urban District, the St. Nicholas Hospital for the treatment of mental diseases and the Sanderson Orthopaedic Hospital. Both are controlled by the Regional Hospital Board.

**Ambulance Service.** This service, under the control of the Northumberland County Council, has a station at Gosforth which covers not only the Urban District but the adjacent parts of the South Area and works in conjunction with the Newburn and Ponteland stations. There are six drivers and a driver in charge, and four ambulances.

During 1951, ambulances of the Gosforth Station made 3,487 journeys, carried 8,220 patients, including 1,151 stretcher cases and 356 accident and emergency cases and did a total mileage of 64,668 miles.

**Home Help Service.** In 1951, 194 cases resident in the Urban District were served with home helps for varying periods. These cases included 71 of illness, 51 aged and infirm people, 42 confinements, 16 following operation and discharge from hospital, 5 cases of accident, 3 blind persons, 3 paralysed persons and 3 tubercular cases.

**Home Nursing and Midwifery.** The service of domiciliary nursing and midwifery is administered by the County Council. There are four nurses resident in the District.

**Maternity and Child Welfare Service.** This service is administered by the County Council. Regular sessions are held at the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic, Church Road, Gosforth, for babies, children and expectant mothers, and for dental treatment and the treatment of eye defects and skin diseases.

**Housing.** The number of applications for Council houses was 1144 at the end of 1951. Since 1944, 957 Council houses had been built and occupied ; 78 of them being erected during 1951. Seven applicants with a case history of tuberculosis were given more suitable housing accommodation during 1951.

**National Assistance Act, 1949. Burial or Cremation of the Dead—Section 50.** No action was taken under this Section.

**Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention—Section 47.** Action was taken by the Council under this Section on January 31st, 1951, when an Order was granted by the Magistrates Court for the removal of an elderly man to the Thomas Taylor Homes for a period of three months as he was living in insanitary circumstances and was quite unable to look after himself. The Order was later renewed for a further period of three months. He returned home on August



1st. After a fortnight at home this person was admitted to the St. Nicholas Hospital and eventually certified insane.

Four other cases were investigated under this Section and one elderly person voluntarily entered the Thomas Taylor Homes.

**Sanitary Circumstances in the Area.** The details under this section have been compiled by Mr. Stenger, Senior Sanitary Inspector.

In conclusion, may I express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council's Health Committee for the great interest they have shown in the work of my department, and to the Senior Sanitary Officer and the staffs of the Health and other departments for the assistance afforded me throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,  
M. HOPPER,  
Medical Officer of Health.

## STATISTICAL SUMMARY AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

### Particulars of District.

Area (in acres)	.. .. .	1,739
Registrar General's estimated population	..	24,500
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books		7,402
Sum represented by Penny Rate	.. ..	£935
Rateable Value	.. .. .	£229,270

### Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	Males	Females	Total
Live births (legitimate)	180	169	349
Live Births (illegitimate)	4	4	8
Still births	.. .. 1	1	2
Deaths	.. .. 141	132	273
Birth rate per 1,000 population	.. ..	14.5	
Still births per 1,000 population	.. ..	0.08	
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	.. ..	11.1	

### Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

There were no maternal deaths.

### Death rate of infants under 1 year.

All infants per 1,000 live births	.. .. .	25.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births	..	25.2
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live births	..	—

### Deaths.

Deaths from Malignant Diseases (all ages)	.. ..	37
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	.. ..	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	.. ..	—
Deaths from Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea (all ages)		1

**CAUSES OF DEATH.**  
(taken from Registrar General's Return)

	Males	Females
ALL CAUSES .. .. .	141	132
Tuberculosis (respiratory) .. .. .	4	1
Tuberculosis (other) .. .. .	1	1
Syphilitic disease .. .. .	—	—
Diphtheria .. .. .	—	—
Whooping Cough .. .. .	—	—
Meningococcal infections .. .. .	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis .. .. .	—	—
Measles .. .. .	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases .. .. .	2	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach .. .. .	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus, .. .. .	3	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast .. .. .	—	5
Malignant neoplasm, uterus .. .. .	—	—
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms .. .. .	9	13
Leukaemia, aleukaemia .. .. .	—	2
Diabetes .. .. .	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system .. .. .	19	22
Coronary disease, angina .. .. .	22	12
Hypertension with heart disease .. .. .	5	3
Other heart disease .. .. .	23	29
Other circulatory disease .. .. .	5	4
Influenza .. .. .	2	2
Pneumonia .. .. .	6	2
Bronchitis .. .. .	10	7
Other diseases of respiratory system .. .. .	2	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .. .. .	2	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .. .. .	1	—
Nephritis and nephrosis .. .. .	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate .. .. .	2	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion. .. .. .	—	—
Congenital malformation .. .. .	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases .. .. .	12	11
Motor vehicle accidents .. .. .	—	2
All other accidents .. .. .	5	4
Suicide .. .. .	2	2
Homicide and operations of war .. .. .	—	—

**TABLE OF BIRTHS & DEATHS FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS  
(1931-1951) as compared with rates of England and Wales.**

Year	General Death Rate		Infantile Mortality Rate		Birth Rate	
	Gosforth	England & Wales	Gosforth	England & Wales	Gosforth	England & Wales
1932	9.6	12.0	51.9	65	12.6	15.9
1933	10.27	12.3	27.7	64	11.8	15.0
1934	9.51	11.8	47.6	59	11.4	15.4
1935	9.8	12.1	73.5	57	11.4	15.3
1936	10.6	12.1	76.9	59	12.7	15.4
1937	11.4	12.4	42.9	58	12.9	15.5
1938	11.0	11.6	32.4	53	13.6	15.7
1939	9.78	12.1	18.0	50	13.4	15.5
1940	11.24	14.3	64.4	55	13.6	15.1
1941	10.0	11.6	50.2	53	11.2	15.7
1942	9.47	11.6	13.6	49	14.4	16.3
1943	10.7	12.1	24.1	49	16.4	17.0
1944	10.7	11.6	29.6	46	18.2	18.1
1945	13.1	11.4	36.2	46	16.0	16.5
1946	10.6	11.5	22.8	43	17.6	19.6
1947	9.1	12.0	23.6	41	18.7	21.0
1948	9.9	10.8	24.7	34	16.7	18.3
1949	9.9	11.7	28.8	32	15.7	16.7
1950	13.1	11.6	11.4	29.8	14.5	15.8
1951	11.1	12.5	25.2	29.6	14.5	15.5

### INFANT MORTALITY.

Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	3 months
Cerebral Haemorrhage	..	..	..	..	..	1 day
Haematemesis, Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	2 weeks
Gastro enteritis	..	..	..	..	..	7 months
Broncho-pneumonia, Enteritis	..	..	..	..	..	9 months
Streptococcal septicaemia	..	..	..	..	..	9 months
Intra Cranial Haemorrhage, Birth Trauma	..	..	..	..	..	6 hours
Broncho Pneumonia, mongolism, congenital heart disease	..	..	..	..	..	4 months
Neonatal anoxia, Antepartum anoxia, Placenta praevia	..	..	..	..	..	11 hours



## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The table on page 11 gives the number and age groups of the cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

Cases requiring hospital treatment and isolation are removed to the Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Walkergate. This hospital is controlled by the Regional Hospital Board.

### PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE.

Appended is a summary of Bacteriological reports received from the Public Health Laboratory Service, Newcastle General Hospital, on specimens submitted by local medical practitioners and by the Health Department.

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Throat swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci .. .. .	7	18	25
Throat Swabs for Diphtheria ..	—	17	17
Nasal swabs for Diphtheria ..	—	6	6
Specimens of Faeces for pathogenic organisms .. .. .	7	20	27
Specimens of sputum for Tuberculosis .. .. .	9	13	22
Specimens of Urine for organisms ..	—	4	4
Cough plate for Whooping Cough	—	2	2
Specimen of C.S. Fluid .. .. .	1	—	1
	24	80	104

# INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Table of cases as notified in the Urban District during 1951, set out in age groups

	At all ages.	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 & upwds	D'ths	Hosp.
Scarlet Fever ..	28	—	—	1	1	4	17	2	1	2	—	—		5
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—
Whooping Cough..	120	11	13	17	24	17	37	—	—	2	—	—		—
Measles ..	164	2	10	22	34	26	67	2	—	1	—	—		—
Enteric-Typhoid Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—		1
Paratyphoid ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—
Dysentery..	18	1	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	1	9	2		1
Pneumonia ..	25	2	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	7	11	1		—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—
Erysipelas..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1		—
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—		—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		1
Chickenpox ..	248	3	9	14	31	19	149	18	1	3	1	—		—
Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—
Infect. Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—
Totals ..	608	19	33	55	92	68	272	22	3	17	23	4		8

### FOOD POISONING RETURN 1951.

**Outbreaks due to identified agents :—**

Total outbreaks    ..    Nil      Total cases           Nil.

**Outbreaks due to :—**

(a) Chemical poisons	..	..	..	Nil.
(b) Salmonella	..	..	..	Nil.
(c) Staphylococci (including toxin)			..	Nil.
(d) Cl. Botulinum..	..	..	..	Nil.
(e) Other bacteria	..	..	..	Nil.

**Outbreaks of undiscovered cause :—**

Total outbreaks    ..    Nil.      Total cases           Nil.

**Single cases :—**

<b>Agent identified</b>	<b>Unknown cause</b>	<b>Total.</b>
		Nil.

Number of deaths—Nil.

Food involved—Nil.

### TABLE OF DIPHTHERIA NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS.

Year	No. of cases of Diphtheria	No. of Deaths.
1935	54	1
1936	39	—
1937	25	—
1938	27	2
1939	23	1
1940	8	1
1941	9	—
1942	10	1
1943	5	1
1944	12	1
1945	15	—
1946	5	—
1947	3	—
1948	3	—
1949	—	—
1950	1	1
1951	—	—



TUBERCULOSIS.

Age periods	New Cases.				Deaths			
	Male	Respiratory Female	Non-respiratory Male	Non-respiratory Female	Male	Respiratory Female	Non-respiratory Male	Non-respiratory Female
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 years ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5-10 years ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10-15 years ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-20 years ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-25 years ..	4 (3 I.T)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35 years ..	6 (1 I.T) (1 RN)	2 (1 I.T)	—	1	—	—	1	1
35-45 years ..	3	2 (2 I.T)	—	—	1	—	—	—
45-55 years ..	3 (1 I.T)	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55-65 years ..	4 (1 RN)	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
65 and over ..	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	(5 I.T) 22 (2 RN)	9 (3 I.T)	2	2	4	1	1	1

I.T. Inward Transfer  
RN Re-notification

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS OF RECENT YEARS.

Year	NEW CASES						DEATHS						No. ON REGISTER AT END OF YEAR.					
	Pulmonary			Non-pul-monary			Pulmonary			Non-pul-monary			Pulmonary			Non-pul-monary		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
1941	11	2	13	1	4	5	5	3	8	1	2	3	31	25	57	12	13	25
1942	12	8	20	3	2	5	2	3	5	1	—	1	41	32	73	14	14	28
1943	10	6	16	1	8	9	9	5	14	—	1	1	45	38	83	14	21	35
1944	17	18	35	—	5	5	5	3	8	1	1	2	47	37	84	9	17	26
1945	17	10	27	3	6	9	6	4	10	—	1	1	51	39	90	10	22	32
1946	14	8	22	2	4	6	3	6	9	1	1	2	57	38	95	11	24	35
1947	11	7	18	1	4	5	5	5	10	1	1	2	52	36	88	10	24	34
1948	12	13	25	5	4	9	8	8	16	1	—	1	40	30	70	5	14	19
1949	22	17	39	2	1	3	4	3	7	—	—	—	55	38	93	6	14	20
1950	16	11	27	2	3	5	9	3	12	2	1	3	59	45	104	7	17	24
1951	22	9	31	2	2	4	4	1	5	1	1	2	74	47	121	9	14	23

## TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER, 1951.

Quarter ended		No. of cases on register at commencement of Quarter		No. of cases notified for the first time		No. of cases removed from register		No. of cases remaining	
		Pul.	Non-pul.	Pul.	Non-pul.	Pul.	Non-pul.	Pul.	Non-pul.
31st Mar. 1951	Males	59	7	6	1	3	—	62	8
	Females	45	17	1	—	3	—	43	17
30th June "	Males	62	8	2	—	—	—	64	8
	Females	43	17	3	1	3	1	43	17
30th Sept. "	Males	64	8	5	1	2	—	67	9
	Females	43	17	1	—	—	2	44	15
31st Dec. "	Males	67	0	8	—	1	—	74	9
	Females	44	15	4	—	1	1	47	14



## **GOSFORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

### **Annual Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, for the year ended 31st December, 1951.**

DEAR DR. HOPPER,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1951.

#### **WATER SUPPLY.**

The whole of the district has a piped water supply provided by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company. There are no common standpipes in the district, and practically all premises have an internal water supply.

I am again indebted to the Engineer of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company for supplying the following information relating to the bacteriological and chemical analysis of samples of water taken throughout the Company's area during the year under review.

#### **Bacteriological Analysis.**

During the year ended the 31st December, 1951, 99.8% of 949 samples of filtered water examined, were found free of Bact. Coli. (type 1) per 100 ml. A further 344 samples taken from widely dispersed points in various districts within the Company's area proved to be satisfactory.

#### **Chemical Analysis.**

A bi-monthly chemical analysis on samples drawn from Consumers' taps proved the water suitable in all cases for domestic use.

#### **DRAINAGE SYSTEMS AND DRAIN TESTING.**

The number of complaints of choked drains received in the Department during the year was considerable, and in most cases, the cleansing of the drain was carried out by the Health Department. The provision of this drain cleansing service, for which a nominal sum is charged, is greatly appreciated by householders, etc. The service ensures that complaints of this nature are promptly attended to, and efficiently dealt with.

During the year, the Department was extremely active in the examination and testing of new drains on new housing estates, and work involved in the repair and reconstruction of existing drains.

A perusal of the following table will give some idea of the work undertaken in this connection.

Number of Enquiries made	..	..	..	236
Number of water tests carried out	..	..	..	180
Number of smoke tests carried out	..	..	..	29
New drainage constructed	..	..	..	2259 yards
Drains repaired or reconstructed	..	..	..	308 yards.

## **REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.**

### **Refuse Collection.**

During the year the weekly collection of refuse from all premises in the district was maintained, plus the usual bi-weekly collection from the Coxlodge area, and the additional weekly collection of putrescible refuse from certain shops in the district. It was also found possible to provide a service for residents who desired a special collection of refuse.

The erection of new houses adds considerably to the work of the Department, yet nevertheless, despite these extra demands, plus the fact that there has been no increase of staff, the high standard of efficiency has been fully maintained.

### **Refuse Disposal.**

During the early part of the year the Brunton Quarry was completely filled in after supplying the needs of the district as a refuse disposal point for over thirteen years. With the aid of a bulldozer the site was completely covered with soil and levelled off.

Tipping continued at Wideopen and Benton which are situated in the Urban District of Longbenton in accordance with prior arrangement made with the Longbenton Urban District Council. The tips are controlled by the Longbenton Council and 50% of the total cost is borne by this Authority.

### **Salvage Collection.**

Our effort in this connection was again intensified and was reflected in the collection of over 260 tons of waste paper ; an increase of over 25 tons upon the previous year. My thanks are again due to the residents for their continued support in the saving of waste paper.

### **Costing.**

Despite the inevitable increases in the cost of wages, petrol, etc., I am able to record an appreciable decrease in the nett cost of the service. This position is wholly attributable to the increased income from the sale of waste paper.

**Utilisation of Refuse.**

Details showing quantities of salvage disposed of :

Commodity.				Tonnage.		
				T.	C.	Q.
Waste Paper :	Mixed	..	..	189	0	1
	Fibreboard	..	..	49	4	1
	Books/Mags.	..	..	14	13	3
	Newsprint	..	..	7	9	2
Total				260	7	3
	Kitchen Waste	..	..	46	4	—
	Metals	..	..	8	7	1
	Textiles	..	..	2	5	2
TOTAL				317	4	2

Details showing Costs for the year ended March 31st, 1952.

**REFUSE COLLECTION.**

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Wages .. .. .	4959	3	4			
Holiday and Sick Pay ..	423	4	0			
Nat. Insurance (Council's Contrib.) .. .. .	177	7	7			
Superannuation (do.) ..	177	1	10			
Protective Clothing ..	7	3	4			
Salaries—Proportion ..	104	0	0			
Loan Charges .. .. .	168	7	0			
Sundries .. .. .	4	6	11			
				6021	14	0

**Motor Transport.**

Wages (Mechanics) .. ..	136	17	3			
Holidays & Sick Pay etc. ..	21	2	1			
Materials (Repairs & Renewals)	150	1	11			
Tyres .. .. .	24	8	1			
Oil & Petrol .. .. .	595	3	9			
Licences & Insurances ..	166	17	10			
Depot—Proportion .. ..	62	17	0			
				1157	7	11
Gross Expenditure .. ..				£7179	1	11



**REFUSE DISPOSAL.**

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Wages .. .. .	235	16	10			
Holiday and Sick Pay ..	23	5	2			
Nat. Insurance (Council's Contrib) .. .. .	8	12	11			
Superannuation ( do ) ..	10	4	4			
Brunton Quarry Tip .. ..	40	1	10			
Beaumont Terrace Tip ..	5	19	11			
Longbenton Tip .. .. .	8	17	6			
Loan Charges .. .. .	89	1	2			
Salaries—Proportion .. ..	52	0	0			
Sundries .. .. .	15	7				
	<hr/>			474	15	3

**Motor Transport.**

Wages (Mechanics) .. ..	84	4	11			
Holiday and Sick Pay etc. ..	12	19	9			
Oil and Petrol. .. .. .	152	13	8			
Tyres .. .. .	27	14	2			
Materials (Repairs and Renewals) .. .. .	91	11	7			
Licences and Insurances ..	44	4	3			
Depot—Proportion .. .. .	3	9	9			
	<hr/>			416	18	1
Gross Expenditure ..				£891	13	4
				<hr/>		

**SALVAGE COLLECTION.**

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Wages .. .. .	1488	7	10			
Holiday and Sick Pay .. ..	153	9	0			
Nat. Insurance (Council's Contrib) .. .. .	58	19	5			
Superannuation .. .. .	58	16	10			
Protective Clothing .. ..	2	16	0			
Sundries .. .. .	1	3	11			
	<hr/>			1763	13	0

**Motor Transport.**

Wages (Mechanics) .. ..	89	3	8
Holiday and Sick Pay etc. ..	13	16	4
Materials (Repairs and Renewals) .. .. .	73	19	3
Oil and Petrol .. .. .	285	19	0
Tyres .. .. .	12	3	7
Trailers .. .. .	407	19	0

Licences and Insurances ..	81	11	4		
Depot—Proportion .. ..	18	12	4		
				983	4 6
Gross Expenditure .. ..				£2746	17 6

**SALVAGE DISPOSAL.**

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Wages .. .. .	847	2	0			
Holiday and Sick Pay ..	46	18	0			
Nat. Insurance (Council's Contrib) .. ..	26	14	8			
Superannuation .. ..	23	0	4			
Salaries—Proportion .. ..	52	0	0			
Repairs etc. Paper Baler ..	4	16	4			
Baling Wire .. ..	26	16	5			
Weigh Charges .. ..	7	7	2			
Protective Clothing .. ..	1	5	0			
Depot—Proportion .. ..	10	9	5			
Sundries .. .. .	5	9	0			
				1051	18	4
Gross Expenditure .. ..				£1051	18	4

**Details showing income for the year ended March 31st, 1952.****SALVAGE DISPOSAL.**

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper .. .. .	4225	15	2			
Kitchen Waste .. .. .	137	2	0			
Textiles .. .. .	65	10	0			
Metals .. .. .	42	0	7			
				4470	7	9
				£4470	7	9

**REFUSE COLLECTION.**

				£	s.	d.					£	s.	d.
Special Collections	..	..		39	15	3					39	15	3
				<hr/>									
			Collection.	Disposal			Total.						
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		
Gross Expenditure			9925	19	5	1943	11	8	11869	11	1		
Gross Income	..		39	15	3	4470	7	9	4510	3	0		
				<hr/>									
Nett Cost	..		£9886	4	2	0	0	0	7359	8	1		

Unit Costs.	Collection.			Disposal.					
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Nett Cost per ton	1	4	5	—	—	—	18	2	
Nett Cost per premises ..	1	5	3	—	—	—	18	9	
Cost per 1000 population ..	403	10	4	—	—	—	300	7	8
Cost of Rate Service									7.87d.
Estimated Tonnage of Refuse Collected ..							8090	tons.	
Estimated Weight (cwts.) per 1000 Population per day ..							18,1	cwts.	
Estimated Weight (cwts.) per premises ..							20.6	cwts.	

### HOUSING.

The position with regard to the establishment of clearance areas and redevelopment areas remains unaltered. Any immediate action in this respect is precluded by the provision of houses for persons who are at the moment inadequately housed.

In 1949, I submitted to the Health Committee a general statement showing the number of houses which I was of the opinion should receive first consideration when the question of the demolition of unfit houses could be deliberated. The group of houses referred to, in my report, comprised about 120 houses and could well be extended to include a further 250 houses, which, owing to their physical limitations would hardly fit in with modern requirements. There exists a great danger of a gradual extension of the number of houses which may fall into the above category, owing to the fact, that many landlords are finding it economically impossible to keep their property in good repair.

#### Houses erected during the year.

- (a) By Local Authority .. .. . 78
- (b) By other Bodies or Persons .. .. . 33

#### 1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

- (1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .. .. . 227
- (2) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.. .. . 5
- (3) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .. .. . 191



## 2. Remedy of Defects without service of formal notices :—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its officers .. ..	171
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## 3. Action under Statutory Powers :—

### (A) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. ..	3
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal action :—	
(a) By owners .. .. 3	}
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .. ..	
	3

### (B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. ..	27
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners .. ..	26
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.

### (C) Proceedings under Section 11 and 12 of Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. ..	5
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. ..	5
(3) Number of dwelling houses closed but not demolished (Housing Act, 1949, Sec.3) ..	Nil.

### (D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. .. ..	Nil.
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. .. ..	Nil.

4. Number of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included above .. ..	6
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### HOUSING ACT, 1949 (SEC. 20)

Number of separate dwelling houses in respect of which applications for grant have been received .. .. . Nil.

### RODENT INFESTATION.

#### Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The amount of work involved in the investigation of rodent infestation in both dwelling-houses and business premises was fairly extensive. Eighty-two complaints were received, and on investigation it was found that thirty-one premises were infested with rats and forty-three premises infested by mice. All infestation were dealt with effectively, and in each case the infestation was found to be of a minor character.

Poisons and bait-bases used in the treatment of premises were Zinc, Phosphide and Arsenious Oxide, and Sausage Rusk and Bread Mash, respectively.

Two sewer maintenance treatments were carried out during the financial year ended the 31st March, 1952, details of which are set out below. The cost incurred in the carrying out of these treatments was £55, fifty per cent of which will rank for reimbursement from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Treatment No.	No. of Man-holes Baited	Poison Takes	
		Partial	Complete
1	213	18	Nil.
2	219	17	Nil.

### VERMINOUS PREMISES.

The number of premises treated during the year showed a slight increase upon the previous year, although apart from one serious infestation of fleas, all other infestations dealt with were small in comparison. The types of vermin dealt with were varied, although it was again found that the bulk of the work was confined to the eradication of the cockroach.

### FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

There are 88 registered factories in the district, 66 mechanical factories and 22 non-mechanical factories.

The following table gives in detail the number of visits and notices served to remedy defects found in course of inspection of the various factories in the district :—

Factories	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	Notices Served
Mechanical ..	66	229	7
Non-mechanical..	22	89	7
Total ..	88	318	14

Particulars	Defects found	Defects remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness .. ..	7	5	1
Overcrowding .. ..	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature .. ..	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation .. ..	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors .. ..	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :—			
(a) Unsuitable .. ..	7	6	—
(b) Not separate for sexes .. ..	—	—	—
(c) Insufficient .. ..	—	—	—
(d) Other offences .. ..	—	—	—
Total .. ..	14	11	1

## INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.

### Milk Supply.

#### Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Number of dealers licences issued to retail “ Tuberculin Tested ” milk .. .. . 1

Number of supplementary licences issued to retail “ Tuberculin Tested ” milk .. .. . 11

#### Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Number of Dealers licences issued to retail “ Pasteurised ” milk .. .. . 5

Number of Supplementary licences issued to retail “ Pasteurised ” milk .. .. . 7

Numbers of Dealers licences issued to retail “ Steri- lised ” milk .. .. .	7
Number of Supplementary licences issued to retail “ Sterilised milk .. .. .	1

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Number of persons registered as Distributors of milk	25
Number of premises registered as Dairies. .. ..	1

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

Grade	B. Tuberculosis			Methylene Blue			Phosphatase/ Turbidity			
	Negative	Positive	Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total	% Satisfactory
Ungraded	9	—	9	32	7	39	—	—	—	—
Accredited	4	—	4	5	2	7	—	—	—	—
Tuberculin Tested	14	—	14	29	8	37	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised	3	—	3	33	2	35	29	2	31	93.55
Sterilised	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	4	100.00
Totals	30	—	30	99	19	118	—	—	—	—



Although these results show that the improvement upon previous years is being maintained, the percentage of failures in the designated milks still remains fairly high. In this respect, close contact is kept with the County Milk Production Officer.

It is pleasing to record that thirty samples of milk submitted for examination for tubercle bacilli were all returned negative.

### **Food Premises.**

A regular systematic inspection of all food premises was again carried out during the year, and it is to the credit of the various shopkeepers that I record that the standard of hygiene in food premises in this district is very good.

At the end of the year 87% of all food premises in the district had been provided with a fitted wash-hand basin, with hot and cold water laid on.

### **Registration of Food Premises.**

During the year four applications were received for the registration of premises under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and were made in respect of the sale of ice-cream. The premises were duly registered, bringing the total of registered premises in the district up to seventy-five.

### **Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924-48.**

The slaughtering of all food animals is still carried out in Ministry of Food abattoirs situated in the City and County of Newcastle upon Tyne. Regular attention was again given to the handling and conveyance of meat, which is transported from the City in an all-metal insulated vehicle.

### **Unsound Food.**

The following foodstuffs were examined following their voluntary surrender and condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Beef (English)	..	38 stones	Sugar	..	..	..	488 Pounds
Beef (Imported)	..	13 „	Flour	..	..	..	322 „
Meat Products	..	57 Pounds	Pulses	..	..	..	230 „
Meat (Tinned)	..	284 „	Cake, Biscuits	..	..	..	170 „
Cereals	..	..	Margarine	..	..	..	138 „
Jellies & Desserts	..	252 „	Butter	..	..	..	112 „
Cake Mixtures etc.	..	156 „	Bacon and Ham	..	..	..	98 „
Processed Cheese	..	111 „	Marzipan	..	..	..	64 „
Herbs	..	..	Cheese	..	..	..	23 „
Tinned Goods	..	936 Tins	Cooking fat	..	..	..	20 „
Meat Pies	..	8 (only)	Tea, Coffee, & Cocoa	..	..	..	5 „
Faggots	..	..	Yeast	..	..	..	2 „
		11 (only)					

## Adulteration of Food.

I am again greatly indebted to Mr. Arlidge, Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department, Northumberland County Council for the following brief report on the work of his Department in the Urban District of Gosforth.

During the year ended the 31st December, 1951, a total of 99 samples were procured in the district and included 48 samples of milk, 9 of sausages or sausage meat, 8 of ice-cream and 34 other miscellaneous articles of food.

Mr. Arlidge states that it is pleasing to report that all these samples were certified by the Public Analyst to be satisfactory in all respects.

## GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

The following tables present a summary of visits made by your Sanitary Officers, and sanitary improvements effected during the year.

TABLE 1.

Dwelling Houses (Nuisances etc)	..	..	..	..	..	1398
Housing Applications ..	..	..	..	..	..	46
Accumulations ..	..	..	..	..	..	37
Cinemas, and Dance Halls ..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Ditches and Streams ..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Drainage Systems (Enquiries) ..	..	..	..	..	..	236
„ Smoke Tests ..	..	..	..	..	..	29
„ Water Tests ..	..	..	..	..	..	180
Factories (Mechanical) ..	..	..	..	..	..	229
„ (Non-Mechanical) ..	..	..	..	..	..	89
Infectious Diseases Enquiries ..	..	..	..	..	..	52
„ „ Disinfections ..	..	..	..	..	..	56
„ „ Revisits ..	..	..	..	..	..	71
National Assistance Act ..	..	..	..	..	..	41
Rodent Infestation—Rats ..	..	..	..	..	..	273
„ „ —Mice ..	..	..	..	..	..	251
Refuse Collection Supervision ..	..	..	..	..	..	133
Refuse Tips ..	..	..	..	..	..	90
Shops Acts, 1934/50 ..	..	..	..	..	..	121
Verminous Premises —Inspected ..	..	..	..	..	..	25
„ „ —Treated ..	..	..	..	..	..	46
„ „ —Re-inspected ..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Workplaces, and Offices ..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Food Premises ..	..	..	..	..	..	837
Miscellaneous ..	..	..	..	..	..	345
Total ..						4665

TABLE II

Ceiling plaster repair or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	18
Chimneys or chimney stacks repaired	..	..	..	..	..	6
Dangerous walls repaired	..	..	..	..	..	3
Doors repaired, rehung or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	7
Eaves-gutters, cleaned out, rep'd or ren'd	..	..	..	..	..	43
External walls pointed	..	..	..	..	..	18
Fallspouts repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	26
Firegrates repaired, reset or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	4
Floors repaired, ventilated etc.	..	..	..	..	..	29
Roofs repaired	..	..	..	..	..	49
Sashcords renewed	..	..	..	..	..	14
Sink-draining boards renewed/repared	..	..	..	..	..	3
Sinks (new) provided and fixed	..	..	..	..	..	3
Sink Waste pipes repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	11
Stairs repaired, renewed or provided	..	..	..	..	..	3
Walls rendered internally	..	..	..	..	..	22
Wall plaster repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	27
Water supplies repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	6
Windows repaired, made to open etc.	..	..	..	..	..	8
Yards and passages paved and drained	..	..	..	..	..	1
Choked drains cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	75
Dustbins provided	..	..	..	..	..	257
Gullies (additional) provided and connected to drains	..	..	..	..	..	3
Manhole covers renewed	..	..	..	..	..	1
W.C. basins renewed	..	..	..	..	..	12
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	12
W.C. structures repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	9
Soil ventilating pipes repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	3
Total						673

## CONCLUSION.

In conclusion I must offer a word of praise to my assistant, Mr. Oxley for his conscientiousness and for the excellent manner in which he has carried out the duties assigned to him.

My warmest thanks are also due to the clerical staff for their generous help, and for the excellent manner in which they have carried out their duties.

Mr. Oliver, the outside foreman, has proved himself a worthy successor to Mr. Smith and to him, and to the outside staff, I offer a very sincere thanks.

Yours sincerely,

GEO. STENGER,

August, 1952.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.





